

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20-41 are pending in this application.

Examiner Interview – Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Jacob Choi and the Supervisor for permitting the interview. In particular, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for spending considerable time on March 18, 2008 during a telephone discussion of several issues extant in this application. During the conversation, the Examiner agreed that the invention, especially as shown in our Figs. 9 and 10, is not shown by the prior art now in the record and that he would be inclined to allow claims to those embodiments, if they were appropriately drafted. We also discussed the term “closed space” with respect to the concept of “such that no air can go in or out.” The Examiner agreed such language would avoid Onishi, but then indicated that he would reconsider the rejection based upon the Onishi reference if we would change “closed” in the claims to “completely closed”, with the appropriate discussion relative to the amendment being made to distinguish from the “almost closed” spaces in Onishi. He wished us to emphasize that the first and second plate shaped planar members are bonded together in close adhesion and it is the adhesion of the two facing surfaces that results in the spaces being “completely closed.” When we turned to the consideration of Figs. 3 and 4 of Yamashita, he suggested that the claims be amended to recite that the closed spaces be of substantially uniform size and located closer together with a greater density at the edges than at the center to more clearly distinguish from the features shown in Figs. 3 and 4. It was also noted with respect to Yamashita that the reference fails to disclose the formation of completely closed spaces by the close adhesion of two planar surfaces, both of which have spaces formed on the surface thereof, and which completely enclose the closed spaces upon the close adhesion of the faces. While there was no agreement that specific language would make the claims allowable, the Examiner provided helpful suggestions, and agreed to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments presented herein as well as the following remarks. The claims have been amended in the manner discussed during the interview, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Every effort has

been made to adopt suggestions made during the interview in an attempt to satisfactorily resolve all outstanding issues.

The Office Action dated February 1, 2008, has been carefully reviewed in light of the discussions which occurred during the interview. Each issue raised in that Office Action and in the interview is addressed below, and reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 26-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,004,610 to Yamashita et al. (“Yamashita”). While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 26 and 32 have been amended to recite a combination of elements in a combined radiation source and conversion element including, *inter alia*, completely closed spaces formed by the closed adhesion of the surfaces of first and second members, each of which has spaces formed on the surfaces thereof. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 26 and 32 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamashita, as discussed more fully during the **Examiner Interview** discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,425,675 to Onishi et al. (“Onishi”). While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8 and 20 have been amended to recite a combination of elements in a liquid crystal display device and method for making an element thereof including, *inter alia*, completely closed spaces having a substantially uniform size, among other features. As was discussed at length during the interview described above, this

amendment was made to avoid the Examiner's interpretation of the spaces between projections 7 in Onishi, which can clearly be seen to be open at the sides, and which the Examiner has described as "almost closed." Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 8 and 20 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Onishi, as discussed more fully during the **Examiner Interview** discussed above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20-25 and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamashita. While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, 20 and 25 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, completely closed spaces being formed such that the number of completely closed spaces near an edge of an element body being of greater density than the density in a central portion of the body. As was discussed at length during the interview described above, this amendment was made to avoid the Examiner's interpretation of the spaces which can be seen in Figs. 3 and 4 of Yamashita. In addition, claims 26, 32 and 38 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that completely closed spaces are formed on both in a surface of the first member and in a surface of the second member, and it is the connection of the two faces that creates the complete closure of the spaces. Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claims 1, 8, 20, 25, 26, 32 and 38 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamashita, as discussed more fully during the **Examiner Interview** discussed above. Likewise, the claims dependent upon independent claims 1, 8, 20, 25, 26, 32 and 38, are also submitted to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed with respect to the independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested

Conclusion

By this amendment, Applicant has attempted to address all matters discussed in the interview and thereby favorably resolve all outstanding issues. All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

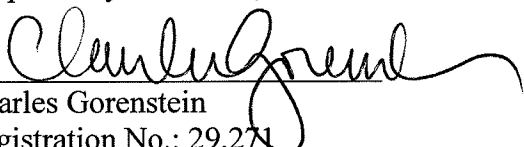
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant